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Yonkers police close down illegal poker parlor

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YONKERS - A White Plains man and a man from Hastings-on-Hudson brazenly ran an illegal poker gambling shop called "The Grinder" across the street from the Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway, police charge.

A task force of Yonkers police, the New York State Liquor Authority and the city Building Department raided the Twilight Bar and Grill on Yonkers Avenue late Friday.

Authorities arrested Anthony DiNapoli, 39, of 1604 Pondcrest Lane, White Plains, the bar owner; and Edward N. Ackerman, 72, of 26 Oakcrest Lane, Hastings, the manager.

Capt. Frank Bruno said the Twilight was divided in half. The poker operation was closed off from the bar. Patrons would ring a buzzer on the door, and people inside the poker section would check television monitors to see who was there before buzzing them in.

When task force members raided the poker room at 9:30 p.m. Friday, three men were playing poker at one of the tables with \$962 on the table, Bruno said.

Police removed six tables, seven cases of poker chips, numerous decks of cards, gambling records and illegal Joker Poker gambling machines, along with \$1,400 in proceeds, Bruno said.

DiNapoli is charged with second-degree promoting gambling, possession of gambling devices and possession of gambling records, all misdemeanors, and several city code violations. Ackerman was charged with second-degree promoting gambling, possession of gambling devices and possession of gambling records.

Both are due in court April 2.
